

Message Text

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORT BY DAVID WILLIAMS MOGADISCIO

OAU SIT REP

INTRO: THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MINISTERIAL COUNCIL TUESDAY WOUND UP DISCUSSION ON MAJOR TOPICS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN A FEVERISH ATTEMPT TO FINISH WORK BEFORE THE START OF WEDNESDAY'S SUMMIT CONFERENCE. VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID WILLIAMS CABLED THAT REPORT FROM THE SOMALI CAPITAL.

TEXT: THE FORTY TWO MEMBER MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ENDED DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM AND ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN WILL DRAW UP A RESOLUTION CONTAINING FIVE ITEMS. AMONG THEM ARE THAT ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SHOULD ADOPT A COORDINATED POLICY IN REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE. IT ALSO SAYS THERE SHOULD BE NO CEASE-FIRE UNTIL PORTUGAL MAKES AN UNEQUIVOCAL DECLARATION THAT IT WILL GRANT INDEPENDENCE. THE OAU WARNS THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND NOT RELAX THEIR GUARD WITH PORTUGAL. BUT IT ALSO APPRECIATES THE FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE STARTED AND SAYS THE AFRICAN ORGANIZATION WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO ASSIST THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THESE TALKS.

ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE OAU SPOKESMAN SAID THE CASE WAS PRESENTED BY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATE AND THEN THROWN OPEN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00893 111140Z

TO DEBATE. THE SPOKESMAN SAID A RESOLUTION WILL BE DRAWN UP

ON A CONSENSUS OF SEVERAL POINTS. THESE POINTS ARE BASICALLY CONTAINED IN RECENT OAU RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND RECOGNISING THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ALSO ALLEGES GROWING LINKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA AND SAYS THAT ISRAEL HAS PERSISTENTLY THREATENED THE CEASEFIRE AND DISENGAGEMENT ACCORDS. THE OAU HAS CALLED ON ITS SECRETARIAT TO CLOSELY WATCH MIDDLE-EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH SHOULD BE HELD IN EARLY NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE.

THE AFRICAN MINISTERS HAVE ALSO ADOPTED THE REPORT ON OAU-ARAB COOPERATION. THAT REPORT NOTES THE WILLINGNESS OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS TO GIVE TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA.

///REST OPT///

MEANWHILE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN THE SOMALI CAPITAL FOR WEDNESDAY'S SUMMIT. IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT TWENTY THREE SUCH LEADERS WILL ATTEND ALONG WITH U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM.

THE CURRENT OAU CHAIRMAN, GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON ARRIVED IN SOMALIA ON MONDAY. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH THE SOMALI NEWS AGENCY, THE NIGERIAN LEADER SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO THE OAU ON THE CURRENT ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA SITUATION. LAST YEAR HE WAS APPOINTED TO LEAD A "GOOD OFFICES" COMMITTEE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SORT OUT BORDER PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. GENERAL GOWON ADDED THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HAVE ACTED ACCORDING TO THE OAU CHARTER TO ENSURE THAT THE MATTER DID NOT GET OUT OF HAND. ITEM
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